

August 2010 Issue Development Challenges, South-South Solutions

1) Indians Fighting Inflation with Technology

Despite the global economic downturn, many countries of the South are seeing rapid economic growth. That can have a down side: inflation (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inflation>). Inflation can be caused by variety of factors – too much money chasing too few goods, deliberate government policies to increase demand for goods and services, environmental disasters creating scarcity, or poor investment in infrastructure straining against rapid economic growth. But when it gets out of control for life-essential goods like food, then people need solutions to survive.

In India - home to more poor people than all of sub-Saharan Africa - rising inflation has prompted the Reserve Bank of India to raise interest rates, which in turn leads to more expensive loans and credit, just when funds need to be borrowed to invest in infrastructure improvements for the country.

India's finance minister, Pranab Mukherjee, has warned that the rising interest rates necessary to fight inflation will hurt India's economic growth.

India has seen inflation jump from single digits in 2008 to double digits this year. Consumer price inflation for industrial and farm workers in India rose by 14 percent, government data show - up from 5.51 percent in January 2008 (It hit 16.22 percent in January 2010, according to the Indian Ministry of Labour).

And it is the poorest who suffer the most from inflation. Inflation in India has led to worker protests for wage increases and rising prices for essentials like food: a life-and-death issue for the poor.

Other countries across the South are also experiencing high inflation, the worst being Venezuela. India has the highest inflation after Venezuela's 32 percent rate, according to Bloomberg data compiled from 82 countries.

The UN's trade and development body, UNCTAD, has called for new measures to tackle inflation. "In the past few decades, monetary policies have been more and more gradually based on inflation targeting," said Supachai Panitchpakdi, secretary-general of UNCTAD. "I see there should be other instruments to contain inflation rather than monetary policies."

Frustration with inflation has even been taken up by India's vibrant entertainment industry, Bollywood (<http://www.bollywoodworld.com/>).

The song "Mehangayi Daayan" ("The Inflation Witch") in a film produced by acting star Aamir Khan has the lyrics, "my husband's earnings are good but his second wife — inflation — is eating them up."

Indian marketing consultant Suhasini Sakhare
(http://www.suhasinisakhare.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=secti

[on&layout=blog&id=2&Itemid=12](#)) from Nagpur has called for Indian consumers to be empowered, just as farmers are with the successful e-Choupal web portal.

E-Choupal (<http://www.echoupal.com/>) has developed a reputation for both controlling prices and increasing incomes for poor farmers. Started in 2000 by the major Indian company ITC Limited (<http://www.itcportal.com/>), it links farmers to the latest prices for products including soybeans, wheat, coffee and prawns.

E-Choupal works through computers set up in rural areas. It has built one of the largest internet initiatives in rural India, reaching 4 million farmers in 40,000 villages. It does this through 6,500 computer kiosks located in the homes of farmer-coordinators called Sanchalaks. The kiosks offer weather reports and the latest market prices, important scientific developments, risk management advice, and help with sales and marketing. The computer is in the Sanchalak's house and connects to the internet by telephone. Each computer can serve around 600 farmers in the surrounding area.

Indian agriculture suffers from being very fragmented, with poor infrastructure and an army of middlemen looking to get the best price for themselves at the expense of farmers and consumers. Indian farmers are heavily in debt and plagued by a very high suicide rate as a result (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farmers'_suicides_in_India). This agricultural crisis has a direct impact on India's ability to meet its development goals and lift many millions more out of poverty in the future.

E-Choupal sees itself as creating a "virtuous circle of higher productivity, higher incomes, enlarged capacity for farmer risk management, larger investments and higher quality and productivity."

E-Choupal has increased yields for farmers, reduced transaction costs, and raised the quality of output leading to rising farmer incomes.

It is clear from experience in other countries that better access to price information helps control price inflation. E-Choupal has the advantage of providing both information and the means to access it: a big problem in rural India. Most poor Indian consumers do not have access to the internet and make food purchases from small vendors, whom they must trust to set the right price for products.

Online, there are plenty of price comparison websites for Indians (<http://explore.oneindia.in/internet/portal/comparisonsites/>): computers, electronics and household goods (<http://compareindia.in.com/>) for example. But this is of no use to poor Indians without access to the information.

Economic commentator Paranjoy Guha Thakurta told AFP of the political dangers: "There's a huge amount of discontent and anger across the country and certainly among the poor. Speak to the person on the street and their biggest problem is inflation."

LINKS:

1) Olam: A global food supply company in 'agri-products' that got its start in Nigeria. It shows how a Southern brand can grow and go global, and overcome the difficulties of cross-border trade. **Website:** www.olamonline.com

2) Model Village India: A pioneering initiative is reviving impoverished rural villages. Drawing on self-organizing methods used in India since 1200 BC, the Model Village India is based around India's democratic system of Panchayats: a village assembly of people stemming back to pre-colonial times. **Website:** www.modelvillageindia.org.in

3) e-Choupal: Hope or Hype? By Neeraj Dangi and Harjit Singh, American Journal of Economics and Business Administration 2 (2): 179-184, 2010. **Website:** <http://tinyurl.com/3682r3p>

4) A book on the consequences of inflation when it gets out of control: When Money Dies: The Nightmare of the Weimar Hyper-Inflation by Adam Ferguson. **Website:** <http://www.amazon.co.uk/When-Money-Dies-Nightmare-Hyper-Inflation/dp/1906964440>

5) The American National Inflation Association: A website with educational videos and resources on inflation. **Website:** <http://inflation.us>

2) Mobile Applications Market: Opportunities for South

As the number of mobile phone users around the world mushrooms, so does the mobile phone applications market. Revenue from downloads of applications, or apps, topped US \$10 billion in 2009, according to market analyst firm Juniper (<http://juniperresearch.com>).

Applications have two distinct advantages for the poor in the South. Apps targeted at the poor can boost incomes and increase health and education. And they are an emerging way to make money.

Somebody who develops an application can expect to make up to 70 percent of the download cost. Apple (<http://www.apple.com/iphone/apps-for-iphone/>) – owner of the iPhone application store – claims it has already given developers over US \$1 billion in revenues.

It is a growing industry. The market-leading Apple App Store now boasts more than 225,000 applications for download and sale. It says they have been downloaded an impressive 5 billion times.

Android Market (<http://www.android.com/market/#app=com.com2us.HG>), run by the search engine Google, has more than 60,000 apps on offer. GetJar (www.getjar.com), an independent mobile phone application store from Sweden, says it has 72,000 apps available and has had 1 billion downloads.

Now that the apps economy has been running for a couple years, it is possible to divine what increases a developer's success. Some believe the apps marketplace mimics the dynamics of the music business, rather than the traditional software business.

GetJar chief executive Ilja Laurs told the Economist that it takes as long to write an app as a song. Apps on average cost about the same as a music download: US \$1.90. And just like the pop music charts, a few become big hits but most never make it. Apps are also a quick hit: even after becoming successful they can quickly fade back to obscurity again. In short, they are fad and trend driven and are very much about the moment and a current need.

That means they are wide open to newcomers from the South.

With mobile phones now the main channel for information in East Africa, for example, and mobile penetration exceeding 40 percent of the population there, vast markets have opened for apps. East Africa has more than 120 million citizens, with a large majority living in rural areas: many needing poverty-fighting apps to change their lives.

Various new applications show the creative thinking already coming out of the South. South Africa's Afridoctor (www.afridoctor.com) is Africa's first personal mobile health clinic. Users submit photos of ailments and receive advice from a panel of professionals, or use the mapping feature to find doctors, clinics and all health industry related services nearby. The emergency feature notifies next of kin of your distress and location. Features include symptom checkers, first-aid information, health calculators and quizzes. Afridoctor hopes to make health care affordable and accessible to Africans. It is made by 24.com (<http://store.ovi.com/publisher/24.com>), South Africa's largest digital brands group.

In Mexico, the tragedy of migrants dying as they try to cross the border to the United States is being addressed by Mexican professor Ricardo Dominguez, with funding from charities. He has developed an app tool to help people who cross the US-Mexico border find drinking water in the desert, churches with shelter, and human right groups offering them help. Immigrants download the app - being called a "platform for Migrant Border" - onto their mobile phones.

"The purpose is to provide a platform to travel safely through the desert," said Dominguez, who led the design team.

App action has heated up in India, where Spice Mobiles (<http://www.spiceglobal.com/SpiceMobiles/SpiceMobiles.aspx>) – a wing of the Spice Group – is launching an application store with 250 content providers. India's Bharti Airtel launched its first home-grown mobile application store in February of this year – Airtel App Central (<http://www.airtel.in/apps/>). It clocked up over 13 million downloads in four months.

India's Reliance Communications (<http://www.rcom.co.in/Rcom/personal/home/index.html>) also launched an

application called Socially. It has been designed to enable users to follow the recent activity of friends, and also allows the user to update their status on different social networks like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn through a single client.

Jon Gosier, from Appfrica Labs (<http://appfrica.net/blog/>) - behind the highly successful crisis crowdsourcing Ushahidi application (<http://www.ushahidi.com>) - explained the thinking behind apps in Africa:

"Our goal is to show the world that Africa is capable of solving some of its own problems," he told CP-Africa.com. "Too often Africans aren't even considered as a resource when discussing how to improve their own quality of life."

He has the following advice for would-be app developers: "Think global. Too many entrepreneurs here (Africa) think of themselves as competing with peers within their school or country. That's not true. You're competing in the global market now. If your website or web app doesn't look as flashy or polished as the stuff from 37 Signals (www.37signals.com) or Carsonified (www.carsonified.com), you've still got work to do.

"You don't get a pass on the web because you're African. You get the challenge of working harder."

NEW: Apps4Africa Competition: Apps 4 Africa is a regional competition with the goal of promoting local technology entrepreneurs as they build tools to serve the needs of NGOs and the local community. This unprecedented partnership meshes civil society with developers and designers to create technical solutions to local challenges. The competition will ask civil society and citizens throughout the region to submit local community challenges on issues like transparency and better governance, health, education and more where technology can be a part of the solution. The burgeoning ranks of innovative techies in the region will then use this list of community challenges as the basis of their work, thus creating "an app for that." **Website:** www.apps4africa.org

Deadline: August 31, 2010

LINKS:

1) Mobile Active: MobileActive.org connects people, organizations, and resources using mobile technology for social change.

Website: www.mobileactive.org

2) Android: Apps and tools for download. **Website:** www.android.com

3) SMS Boot Camp: Entrepreneurial Programming and Research on Mobiles run by MIT in Nairobi, Kenya. **Website:**

<http://www.media.mit.edu/ventures/EPRM/entrepreneurship.html#entrep>

4) The Innovative Use of Mobile Applications in East Africa by Johan Hellström. **Website:** http://upgraid.files.wordpress.com/2010/06/sr2010-12_sida_hellstrom.pdf

5) Women and Mobile: A Global Opportunity: A Study on the Mobile Phone Gender Gap in Low and Middle-Income Countries. **Website:** http://mobileactive.org/files/file_uploads/women_and_mobile_a_global_opportunity.pdf

6) New Technologies in Emergencies: The Role of Information and Social Networks by the United Nations Foundation and Vodafone Foundation Technology. **Website:** <http://www.unfoundation.org/press-center/publications/new-technologies-emergencies-conflicts.html>

3) **Rwandan Coffee Brand Boost**

A successful Rwandan company is using coffee shops to promote the nation's high-quality coffee brands at home and abroad. Started by two Rwandan entrepreneurs three years ago, Bourbon Coffee (<http://www.bourboncoffeeusa.com/>) now has three shops in the country's capital, Kigali, and a savvily positioned shop in Washington DC.

While Rwandan coffee has built a good international reputation, the country's more than 500,000 coffee farmers (mostly small-scale) previously depended on the product's reputation alone. But Bourbon Coffee joins several other initiatives changing this situation and starting to significantly raise the profile of Rwandan coffee and build the Rwanda brand.

The East African nation experienced the horrific genocide of almost 1 million people in 1994. Ever since, the country has been on a journey to reconcile with the damage done during this time and move on to a more prosperous future for all its citizens. A key part of the country's future success will be its economic prosperity. And historically, coffee has played a critical role in Rwanda's economy.

The Bourbon Coffee chain of shops (taking its name from the high quality Bourbon coffee varietal (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_coffee_varieties) which accounts for the majority of Rwandan coffee), started with its first shop in Kigali in 2007. Started by Emmanuel Murekezi and Arthur Karulewa, two Rwandans living in the United States, it is modelled on the popular American brand Starbucks (<http://www.starbucks.com>). The entrepreneurs admired the coffee culture experience found at Starbucks. Just as Starbucks heavily markets its complete quality control over the coffee experience, their philosophy is to produce great coffee from "crop to cup."

"There are over 500,000 farmers that own 100 to 200 trees in the back of their yards, so the only way they can come up with a product is to come together in a cooperative sense," Karulewa told the Washington Post. It is a learning experience for the Rwandan coffee farmers: they learn to work together, trust each other and be accountable to each other. "Neighbours that once killed

each other and communities that once floated in the same bloodbath are now hand in hand producing one of the most amazing products."

"If done right, it could be the platform to re-brand the country," continued Karulewa, a former chief executive and now a shareholder in the company. Coffee can "create awareness that there's recovery, there's trade, there's investment opportunities, there's tourism. There's life after death."

The importance of good design and a strong brand in the success of a business cannot be emphasised enough. That extra effort and thought can take a business from local success to regional and even global success. As consultants KPMG make clear, "For many businesses, the strength of their brands is a key driver of profitability and cash flow." Yet the majority of small businesses fail to think about their brand values or how design will improve their product or service.

The shops have a very tasteful modern, African design and feel. African sculpture and furniture are surrounded by African artwork. The shop's logo is an eye-catching orange and there is an overall recognizable brand identity for the entire Bourbon Coffee concept.

The founders see it as an opportunity to educate people about the health benefits of coffee culture and the joys of the lifestyle. They proudly serve only Rwandan coffee and promote the national brands they serve, including Akagera, Kivu Lake, Kizi Rift, Muhazi and Virunga.

Bourbon Coffee, in a clever move, opened the Washington branch in 2009 in a former Starbucks in a neighbourhood packed with aid organizations and NGOs, many of which work with Rwanda on projects.

Karulewa says Bourbon Coffee's ambitious vision "is to stand as a symbol of a new era in African economic development, one in which African nations rise to participate directly in the global marketplace."

"Coffee is a very intimate, emotional product," he said. "The preparation, the processes and the profiling of coffee is similar to wine."

The Rwandan branches can be found at the Union Trade Centre (UTC) in Kigali's city centre, the MTN centre in Nyarutarama and Kigali airport.

The business is funded by Rwandan investors Tristar (<http://www.tristarinvestments.com/index.html>).

Another initiative is the Rwandan Farmers Brand (<http://www.rwandanfarmers.com>). It also hopes to raise the profile of Rwandan coffee and drive more of the profits made into the hands of farmers. It is a joint venture between the foundations of former U.S. President Clinton and philanthropist Sir Tom Hunter. They fund all the brand's creation and operation in partnership with 8,700 farmers. They have started selling Rwanda Medium Roast Ground in the United Kingdom's Sainsbury's

supermarkets. Sixteen percent of sales are clear profit and returned to the farmers via their own Trust Fund.

Karulewa says he doesn't want Rwandan coffee to be "a pity-driven mission". It is all about the quality: "The value initiative here is because this coffee tastes great," he says.

And Bourbon Coffee is looking further afield to grow the brand: "We hope to expand even further," Murekezi told Monocle magazine. "Congo, Burundi, Tanzania, but also Europe. We think the concept can work there too."

LINKS:

1) East African Fine Coffees Association: All the latest news on events and initiatives for East Africa's coffee producers. **Website:** <http://www.eafca.org/>

2) Brandchannel: The world's only online exchange about branding, packed with resources, debates and contacts to help businesses intelligently build their brand. **Website:** www.brandchannel.com

3) Small businesses looking to develop their brand can find plenty of free advice and resources here. **Website:** www.brandingstrategyinsider.com

4) The red dot logo stands for belonging to the best in design and business. The red dot is an internationally recognized quality label for excellent design that is aimed at all those who would like to improve their business activities with the help of design. **Website:** <http://www.red-dot.de>

5) Dutch Design in Development: The Dutch NGO works with producers to develop skills and adapt producers' products to present and future demands in Europe. By following this approach, Southern producers can reduce the risk of making products nobody wants, or that lack originality in the marketplace and thus won't sell. **Website:** <http://www.ddid.nl/english/index.html>

4) Technological Innovation Alive in Brazil

The growing digital economy in the global South is giving rise to a new generation of entrepreneurs and innovators.

A University of California paper by Naazneen Barma found explosive potential in poorer countries to innovate, and challenged the view of developing countries as passive market places for products innovated in the industrialized world. She said that "in terms of their market power and their production and innovation possibilities, emerging economies are positioned to increase their presence in the digital era ... poor consumers are increasingly driving modular innovation in production technologies, business models, organizational management, and marketing and distributional strategies."

It has been estimated that the number of people with equivalent to US \$10,000 in annual income will double to 2 billion by 2015, creating hundreds of millions of new consumers for digital products.

Two cutting-edge innovators from Brazil are tapping into this growing market. Both FunStation and Zeebo have developed technology specifically wrapped around the needs of Southern consumers and are growing across the South as a result.

FunStation's (<http://www.funstation.com.br/blog.php>) simple motto - "Touch – Get – Enjoy" – hides a savvy technological innovation aimed at the growing army of digital downloaders on the march across the South. Sao Paulo's FunStation entertainment kiosk system serves up video, audiobooks, songs, and ringtones to mobile phones and MP3 (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MP3>) players. Customers just need to plug into one of the large futuristic white kiosks, scroll through the choices, select what they want, pay and download. By going to the kiosk, customers avoid the need to download from the internet, which can take a lot of time depending on the connection and bandwidth. The kiosk is speedy, with 14 musical tracks downloaded to a device in 10 seconds.

Apart from the convenience and speed of the kiosks, they also have other benefits: customers do not need to register with a download site like iTunes on the internet. This means they do not have to run the risks of giving away bank details or other personal information.

Customers buy something called a Funcard which is similar to a pre-pay phone plastic phone card, with a PIN number. Cards are sold with values ranging from US \$2 to US \$50. The user just punches the number into the kiosk to pay for the download.

The kiosks are being located in high-traffic places like festivals, airports, universities, retail shopping centres and transport systems.

Founded in 2007, the company is a partnership between Bruno de Marchi, 35, computer science student Armando Perico, 24, and 60-year-old Marcos Maynard. The company already has the rights to sell half a million items and has 55 kiosks operating in Brazil, mostly in the country's north. "People are poorer in those places," de Marchi told Monocle magazine. "Usually they have an MP3 player but no computer."

The FunStations have also been successful outside of Brazil: 50 kiosks were sold to Mexico in March. It is launching in Chile later this year and in the United States in 2011. Always evolving, the business is also working with the University of Lugano in Switzerland to develop new software and keep the kiosks fresh and lively.

Another Brazilian technology pioneer is Zeebo (<http://www.zeeboinc.com>). The brainchild of Reinaldo Normand, 34, Zeebo is a game-playing console that doesn't require a CD or DVD, or connection to landline internet. It

downloads games directly from remote servers using wireless 3G technology (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3G>) embedded in the console. It exploits the fast-growing penetration of mobile phone wireless networks across the South to download the games on the consoles.

It has its eyes firmly on the global South's rising middle-class families, who will use the consoles for game-playing and educational applications. It is currently available in Mexico and Brazil and is preparing to roll out across Asia. Normand studied at Tectoy S.A. in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and is a life-long gamer, entrepreneur, journalist and forward thinker. He conceived of a new 3D system for the developing world and contacted American company Qualcomm. He partnered with Mike Yuen at Qualcomm in San Diego, California, who was exploring new forms of gaming using innovative technologies.

As Zeebo's mission states, it is "tailored specifically to the economics and market realities of emerging economies. The Zeebo system fills an enormous unmet need in these regions. At the same time it opens an immense new market for interactive content and products."

Normand is ambitious and wants to reach a vast market of 340 million Chinese families. "By 2011, I want to close deals in China to manufacture televisions with this technology built in, therefore entering the homes of millions of families," he told Monocle.

Zeebo makes some games for the console and also buys in other games from big-name game makers like Electronic Arts and Activision. The games are downloaded from the internet using a 3G mobile chip already built in to the consoles. The games are priced between US \$5 and US \$13.

The Zeebo system will roll out to China, the US and India in 2011, and Eastern Europe in 2012.

LINKS:

1) Afrinnovator: Is about telling the stories of African start-ups, African innovation, African made technology, African tech entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs. Their mission is to 'Put Africa on the Map' by covering these kinds of stories from all over Africa. As their website says, "if we don't tell our own story, who will tell it for us?" **Website:** <http://afrinnovator.com>

2) AfricaUnsigned: This African alternative way of producing African music started this year. Unsigned artists record their music, funded by fans. Music fans from all over the world listen to the selection of artists, pick their favorite(s) and chip in a minimum of \$1 dollar to the recording of a professional EP. The music is then distributed to the fans who backed the artist and sold on all major online stores (incl. Amazon & iTunes). **Website:** www.AfricaUnsigned.com

3) TechMasai: Pan-African start-up news and reviews. **Website:** www.techmasai.com

4) The Emerging Economies in the Digital Era: Market Places, Market Players, and Market Makers by Naazneen Barma, University of California. **Website:** <http://tinyurl.com/3xjf2ps>

Window on the World

Books

Green Gone Wrong: How Our Economy Is Undermining the Environmental Revolution by Heather Rogers, Publisher: Scribner. **Website:** www.amazon.com

When Money Dies: The Nightmare of the Weimar Hyper-Inflation by Alan Fergusson, Publisher: Public Affairs. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Reshaping Our World by Doug Saunders, Publisher: Pantheon. **Website:** <http://arrivalcity.net/>

Urban World: A New Chapter in Urban Development Publisher: UNHABITAT **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/31244004/Urban-World-A-New-Chapter-in-Urban-Development>

Favela: Four Decades of Living on the Edge in Rio de Janeiro by Janice Perlman, Publisher: OUP. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Famine and Foreigners: Ethiopia Since Live Aid by Peter Gill, Publisher: OUP. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Cities for All: Proposals and Experiences towards the Right to the City editors Ana Sugranyes and Charlotte Mathivet, Publisher: Habitat International Coalition. **Website:** English: <http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=3399>
Spanish : <http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=3400>
Portuguese: <http://www.hic-net.org/document.php?pid=3401>

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development Publisher: Making Cents International. **Website:** <http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org>

War Games: The Story of Aid and War in Modern Times by Linda Polman, Publisher: Viking. **Website:** www.amazon.com

The Global Economic Crisis: The Great Depression of the XXI Century by Michel Chossudovsky and Andrew Gavin Marshall, Publisher: Global Research. **Website:** www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=18851

Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity by Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley, Publisher: Earthscan. **Website:** <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073>

The Violence of Financial Capitalism by Christian Marazzi, Publisher: MIT Press. **Website:** <http://mitpress.mit.edu>

In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa's Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World by Judith A. Carney and Richard Nicholas Rosomoff, Publisher: University of California Press. **Website:** <http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/11239.php>

The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between the Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World by Jacqueline Novogratz, Publisher: Acumen Fund. A personal memoir of a woman who has spent her life on a quest to understand global poverty and to find powerful new ways of tackling it. **Website:** <http://www.acumenfund.org/bluesweater/>

Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press. **Website:** http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm

State of the World 2010: Transforming Cultures from Consumerism to Sustainability by Erik Assadourian & Staff, Publisher: Worldwatch Institute, 2010. In *State of the World 2010*, 60 renowned researchers and practitioners describe how we can harness the world's leading institutions—education, the media, business, governments, traditions, and social movements—to reorient cultures toward sustainability. **Website:** <http://www.worldwatch.org/sow10>

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit? by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development. **Website:** http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

Papers and Reports

OECD Investment News: *International Investment Free-fall Comes to an End*. **Website:** <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/37/45562632.pdf>

How People Face Evictions, Publisher: BSHF. A new report examining how people and communities around the world resist forced eviction. **Website:** <http://tinyurl.com/34wt4f5>

Our Common Strategic Interests: Africa's Role in the Post-G8 World by Tom Cargill, Publisher: Chatham House. **Website:** <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/publications/papers/view/-/id/888/>

Doing Business in Nigeria 2010 Compares business regulations across all 36 states and the capital. **Website:**
<http://www.doingbusiness.org/Documents/Subnational/DB10-Nigeria.pdf>

2010 African Economic Outlook (AEO), Publisher: OECD. The AEO finds that the global crisis brought a period of relatively high economic growth in Africa to a sudden end: Africa's GDP growth was slashed from an average of about 6% in 2006-2008 to 2.5% in 2009. Given the pace of population growth this means that growth of per capita GDP came to a near standstill. Average growth is expected to rebound to 4.5% in 2010 and 5.2% in 2011, although the recession will leave its mark. **Website:** www.africaneconomicoutlook.org

African Poverty is Falling...Much Faster than You Think! by Xavier Sala-i-Martin and Maxim Pinkovskiy, Publisher: The National Bureau of Economic Research. The conventional wisdom that Africa is not reducing poverty is wrong. African poverty is falling and is falling rapidly, and if present trends continue, the poverty Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people with incomes less than one dollar a day will be achieved on time. **Website:** <http://www.nber.org/papers/w15775>

Mobility 2030: Meeting the Challenges to Sustainability Publisher: World Business Council for Sustainable Development. **Website:**
<http://www.wbcsd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&ObjectId=NjA5NA>

The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries Publisher: OECD. **Website:**
<http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmmp8Incrns-en>
(PDF - 2.09 mb)

The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050 by Manmohan Agarwal, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power. Africa and Mexico has the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world. This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the world economy. **Website:**
http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf

The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power. This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development. **Website:**
http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf

The MDGs and Beyond: Pro-Poor Policy in a Changing World by Andy Summer and Claire Melamed, Publisher: International Policy Centre for

Inclusive Growth. **Website:**

<http://www.pelicanweb.org/solisustv06n03page5sumnermelamed.html>

From the Web

The Globe and Mail newspaper's Africa web special. **Website:**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/q8-q20/africa/>

A summary of the impact of social media on humanitarian response (drawing on recent Haiti experience). **Website:**

<http://morealtitude.wordpress.com/2010/06/29/reportback-social-media-and-humanitarian-response/>

The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth" Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010. **Website:**

http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf

China now leading world out of recession, says OECD Economic Surveys: China 2010. Already the world's second largest economy, China could well overtake the United States to become the leading producer of manufactured goods in the next five to seven years. **Website:**

http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,3343,en_2649_34571_44495047_1_1_1_37443,00.html

Africa begins to make poverty history: US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case **Website:**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history>

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment **Website:** <http://triplecrisis.com/>

Where Western business sees 'risk', Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity by Dr Jing Gu. Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa. **Website:**

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity>

Can China Save Western Economies From Collapse? **Website:**

<http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article19484.html>

2010

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com

August

Sustainable Agricultural Partnerships 2010

San Francisco, USA (10 to 11 August 2010)

An established forum where incisive and detailed strategies on how to measure and reduce water and carbon impacts throughout the agricultural supply chain are formulated.

Website: <http://www.sustainable-agricultural-partnerships-2010.com/>

Conference on Promoting Indigenous Knowledge and Community Innovations in the Bio-Sciences and Biotechnology of the Bio-economy in Southern Africa

Pilanesburg, South Africa (18-21 August 2010)

Contact: woodend@cta.int

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/2eflaxc>

Maker Faire Africa

Nairobi, Kenya (27-28 August 2010)

A celebration of African ingenuity, innovation and invention.

Website: <http://makerfaireafrica.com/>

International Fair and Congress for Eco-Business and Sustainability

Sao Paulo, Brazil (31 August to 2 September 2010)

In its third year, Eco Business presents the largest and most important environmental event in Brazil. The event is a showcase for companies, institutions and governments to showcase and discuss their products and services in relation to the social, environmental and financial pillars of sustainability.

Website: <http://www.ecobusiness.net.br/page000.aspx>

September

World Water Week 2010

Stockholm, Sweden (5-11 September 2010)

The Week provides a unique forum for the exchange of views and experiences between the scientific, business, policy and civic communities. It focuses on new thinking and positive action toward water-related challenges and their impact on the world's environment, health, economic and poverty reduction agendas.

Website: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

Global Youth Enterprise and Livelihoods Development Conference

Washington DC, USA (15-16 September 2010)

Making Cents International is organizing the fourth Global Youth Enterprise and Livelihoods Development Conference to take place at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC. In just three years, this participatory and demand-driven learning event has become the "go to" conference for practitioners, funders, educators, policymakers, members of the private

sector, and other professionals, who design, implement, monitor, evaluate, and fund programs and policies in this field. Previous conferences have convened on average 300 participants from 45 countries. The 2010 conference themes are: youth enterprise development; youth-inclusive financial services and capabilities; workforce development; monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment; and adolescent girls and young women. Registration and the **Call for Proposals** process begins April 2, 2010.

Website: www.youthenterpriseconference.org

Email: Whitney Harrelson (whitney@makingcents.com; +1 202-783-4090).

Millennium Development Goals Summit

New York, USA (20-22 September 2010)

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend a summit in New York on 20-22 September 2010 to boost progress towards the MDGs. Read the Secretary-General's report, "Keeping the Promise", which serves as the basis for Member States' deliberations on an action-oriented outcome document for the Summit. It identifies successes and gaps, and lays out an agenda for 2010-2015. "Our world possesses the knowledge and resources to achieve the MDGs," Mr. Ban says in the report. Falling short of the Goals "would be an unacceptable failure, moral and practical."

Website: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

October

Asia Microfinance Forum 2010

Colombo, Sri Lanka (12-15 October 2010)

This milestone event will bring together leading microfinance practitioners, policymakers, financiers, academics and advocates from around the world to outline their visions and priorities, and explore new ideas, opportunities and partnerships. The BWTP network actively promotes the development of microfinance in Asia through research, advocacy, policy dialogue, information sharing and capacity building.

Website: <http://www.bwtp.org/news/?p=129>

2010 International Conference on Intelligence and Information Technology

University of Central Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan (28-30 October 2010)

The aim objective of ICIIT 2010 is to provide a platform for researchers, engineers, academicians as well as industrial professionals from all over the world to present their research results and development activities in Intelligence and Information Technology. This conference provides opportunities for the delegates to exchange new ideas and application experiences face to face, to establish business or research relations and to find global partners for future collaboration.

Website: <http://www.iciit.org/>

November

Climate Dialogue 5-day Conference Series – 2010

Hong Kong, China (3 to 7 November 2010)

One of the major climate change conferences in Hong Kong in 2010, with a large number of local and international experts as well cities from around the world will come to Hong Kong to share experiences and insights.

Website: <http://www.civic-exchange.org/eng/>

mHealth Summit

Washington D.C., USA (8-10 November 2010)

The 2010 mHealth Summit is the key opportunity for leaders in government, private sector/industry, academia and not-for-profit organizations to share information and experiences related to the intersection of mobile technology, health research, and policy.

Website: <http://www.mhealthsummit.org/>

Water Investment World Africa 2010

Johannesburg, South Africa (8-11 November 2010)

The Conference is positioned to the decision makers in this sector. With over 340 million people in Africa without access to water and African governments' commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, a lot needs to be accomplished in a very short time in this sector.

Website: <http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/waterza/>

December

Global Metro Summit: Delivering the Next Economy

Chicago, USA (7-8 December 2010)

The two-day conference will examine the changing economic landscape of cities and their metropolitan regions in the US and internationally, to understand how cities are responding to economic instability and how they are harnessing the potential of the green economy to create jobs and support growth. With the participation of civic leaders, at an urban and national scale, and the presentation of new research by the Brookings Institution and the London School of Economics, the conference will identify a road-map to create and sustain low-carbon, opportunity-rich and export-orientated urban economies in a liveable urban environment. Key themes will include the role of federal investment in city growth and competitiveness, state-of-the-art sustainable policies and the creation of green jobs that can deliver a lasting economy for over half the world's population who are now city dwellers.

Website: <http://www.urban-age.net/conferences/chicago/>

International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development

London, UK (13-16 December 2010)

The conference is the latest in the series of highly successful international ICTD conferences held in Doha (2009), Bangalore (2007) and Berkeley (2006). It aims to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and all those with interests in the use of information and communication technologies in development practice to meet to discuss the latest research advances in the

field. Building on the success of its predecessors, ICTD2010 will combine two days of plenary peer-reviewed paper sessions, with two days of workshops, panel sessions, discussion forums, demos and sessions in both Spanish and French. A particular feature will be the opportunity that it will provide for participatory involvement from people from a diversity of backgrounds. ICTD2010 is being hosted by the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D and the multidisciplinary ICT4D Research Centre at Royal Holloway, University of London's magnificent campus situated only 20 minutes from London's Heathrow airport.

Website: <http://www.ictd2010.org/>

NetSquared Camps

Various locations and times

NetSquared Camps will bring people, tools, resources and projects together to help accelerate world-changing ideas. Check their website for a camp near you.

Website: <http://www.netsquared.org/>

2012

Earth Summit 2012: Towards a World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2012

Rio, Brazil (TBC 2012)

The United Nations General Assembly agreed to a new Earth Summit in December. The Summit will be in 2012 and will be hosted by Brazil. The themes are the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the institutional framework for sustainable development, emerging issues and a review of present commitments. This site will keep you abreast of all the developments and latest news.

Website: <http://www.earthsummit2012.org/>

Awards

2010 Africa Awards for Entrepreneurship

The 2010 Legatum Africa Awards for Entrepreneurship are now open for entries from the very best small and medium-sized businesses from across 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The Grand Prize is US\$100,000 with a further five runners-up winning prizes of US\$50,000 each.

Website: www.africaawards.com

African Economic Outlook

A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined

through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

Website: www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Appeal for Help

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3>

MobileTech4SocialChange

They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.

Website: <http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/>

Training Opportunities

Ongoing

Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs

Grameen Bank, <http://www.grameen-info.org/training/>

Sustainable Tourism Criteria Announced

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

Website: www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org

Timbuktu Chronicles: A blog by Emeka Okafor

With "a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities."

Website: <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com/>

OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website

The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery.

Website:

http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41707672_1_1_1_1,00.html

The Grassroots Reporting Project

One of our goals at AfriGadget (www.afrigadget.com) is to find more stories of African ingenuity. The Grassroots Reporting Project is our plan to find, equip and train more AfriGadget reporters in the field throughout Africa. AfriGadget's goal is to leverage the power of current and emerging technology such as video cameras, digital cameras, laptops and phones to bring quality content online and eventually on television. A combination of mobile phones and computers will be assigned to individuals in 10 African countries for the purpose of getting more on-the-ground reporting of stories of African ingenuity to the world. An AfriGadget editor will be in charge of identifying the best candidates for inclusion in the program. This editor will also travel to each country to train and equip the new AfriGadget reporters for the program.

This is possible by creating a network of field reporters who report on stories that meet the following criteria:

- Ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way.
- Interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways.
- Practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way.
- Entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions.

Website: www.afrigadget.com/

Global Knowledge Initiative

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all."

Website: www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/

Jobs and Careers

DevWire.eu - the Media Portal to EU Development Cooperation

The idea behind this site is to support journalists in their EU development coverage. This single entry point provides a comprehensive source of news and background - relevant, up to date and reliable.

Website: <http://www.devwire.eu>

Evidence-Based Policy in Development Network

This website aims to establish a worldwide community of practice for think tanks, policy research institutes and similar organisations working in international development, to promote more evidence-based, pro-poor development policies.

Website: <http://ebpdn.org>

ExportHelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

Website: <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

ilissAfrica - Africa Virtual Library on the Internet

This web portal helps with tracking down relevant literature on a specific African topic or country. Users can search for books, anthologies, journal articles and Internet resources. Users are pointed to the relevant website or library where a book or journal can be found. The portal is a joint project of the University Library in Frankfurt and the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg.

Website: <http://www.ilissafrika.de>

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects. **Website:** www.devex.org

New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions

and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website:

<http://bizzlounge.com>

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com>

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Zunia

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

Website: www.zunia.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping

and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway (now Zunia.org)

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporafricanforum.org

Eldis Communities

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

Website: <http://community.eldis.org>

Enterprise Development Exchange

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

Website: <http://edexchange.seepnetwork.org>

Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

Website: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

Global Development Matters

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction.

Website: www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org

GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

Websites: Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/wiram-afrika/gtz-community/>

Middle East and North Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/mena/open-community/>

Asia: <http://www2.gtz.de/assets-asia/gtz-community/>

LED knowledge

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

Website: www.ledknowledge.org

Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

Website: www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/index.html

TakingITGlobal.org

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

Website: <http://profiles.takingitglobal.org>

XING Group Microfinance Industry

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

Website: www.xing.com/group-21391.0fc826/4466179

AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

Website: www.afdevinfo.com

Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org

The Soul Beat

The Soul Beat shares a selection of programme experiences, strategic thinking documents, and materials related to the use of mobile telephones for social change in Africa. If you would like your organisation's communication work or research and resource documents to be featured on the Soul Beat Africa website and in The Soul Beat newsletters, please contact soulbeat@comminit.com

3D -> Trade - Human Rights - Equitable Economy

3D promotes collaboration amongst trade, development and human rights professionals, to ensure that trade rules are developed and applied in ways that promote an equitable economy. 3D believes that the human rights framework provides strong tools for ensuring a more equitable economy.

Website: www.3dthree.org/en/index.php

Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on color markers to learn more about each country.

Website: <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>

AiDA launches an Interactive Map

AiDA is one of Development Gateway's aid management tools, which supports the aid effectiveness agenda by publishing information on

development activities to help donors coordinate and harmonize their development efforts. With the use of an interactive map generated with technology from Google, development practitioners now have access to a geographical interface for information normally available through the AiDA Web site. Users can click on any country in the world and view a summary of the development activities that are taking place there.

Website: <http://aida.developmentgateway.org/aida/viewMap.do>

Trustive World-wide WiFi Access

The reality of WiFi is usually a fragmented service with different hotspot operators having their own log in methods, billing systems and coverage restricted to certain countries or even cities. The Dutch provider Trustive decided to overcome these challenges in order to improve this reality for the whole Trustive community. Following 5 years of heavy investment and the conclusion of strong roaming agreements with 70+ hotspot operators in 65+ countries, Trustive is now able to offer a seamless service that is both reliable and competitively priced across a unified and ever expanding network of 65,000 WiFi hotspots in 65+ countries, including 350+ airports.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/trustive>

Fellowship Opportunity

South-South Experience Exchange Facility

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa.

Website: www.southsouthcases.info

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

Website: <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website:

http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Click here for more information](#)

or contact:

namstct@vsnl.com,

namstct@bol.net.in,

apknam@gmail.com

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

Website: www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

[AMD](#) and [Architecture for Humanity](#) have announced a prize of \$250 000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

Website: www.architectureforhumanity.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The University of Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (www.agra-alliance.org) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: <http://www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10>

Institute of Social Studies in The Hague

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social bookmarking online resources in international development.

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

Website: www.echoinggreen.org/

Funding

Commonwealth Teams up with Private Equity Firm to Deliver up to \$400 Million in Investment in Africa

Small and medium enterprises across Africa are set to benefit from a multimillion dollar investment fund set up by private equity firm Aureos Capital (<http://www.aureos.com/>) with the Commonwealth Secretariat's assistance.

The Aureos Africa Fund, launched in November following feasibility and due diligence studies funded by the Secretariat, will provide long-term capital and support for promising and successful businesses across the continent.

Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Ransford Smith, speaking at the launch of the fund at the Marriot Hotel in London, UK, on 2 November 2009, hailed the fund's launch. He warned that investment in Africa was "critical" if recent development gains were not to be lost amid the current worldwide recession. "This fund has the potential to make a real contribution to Commonwealth countries in Africa, by helping ordinary businesses to reach their potential and boost much needed growth and jobs across the continent," he said.

Website:

<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/215560/021109aureoscapital.htm>

The Africa Land Fund

The fund has raised almost €2 billion from an American pension fund to invest in African agriculture. The Africa Land Fund, created by the UK-based hedge fund Emergent Asset Management, wants to raise a total of €3 billion and is canvassing a range of investors. It plans to invest in agricultural land and livestock, including African game, which will be sold on to private reserves and safari parks. The fund also plans to develop bio fuel crops on marginal land, saving prime agricultural acreage for crops to feed people.

Email: info@eaml.net

Tel: +44 (0) 1428 656 966

Fax: +44 (0) 1428 656 955

Google.org

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

We want to show that SMEs can be profitable investments. We will do this by focusing on lowering transaction costs, deepening capital markets to increase liquidity, and catalyzing capital for investment.

Website: www.google.org

Challenge

InnoCentive (<http://www.innocentive.com/>) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor. You can read more about the challenges here:

www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: www.socialedge.org

Job Opportunities

Business Fights Poverty

Many job opportunities on their website:

<http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com/profiles/blog/list?q=job+opportunity>

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [Find a Job in Africa](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)

